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official life has not failed to strike so practical a people as the Chinese; and Shanghai has for long become the headquarters of all that was progressive in the land, while lately it has become the headquarters of the reform party. In Shanghai was started under foreign auspices the first attempt at native journalism. The attempt, looked at at first, soon commanded itself to the natives who found that free discussion could be permitted without detriment to public morals; and it was not long in commanding itself also to the native officials, who soon sought to turn the new weapon to their own uses. They were not altogether successful, and soon found that to run a paper on other than lines which commanded themselves to popular views was financially a failure; so by the force of circumstances the native press has maintained an attitude of very marked independence, and has not hesitated to criticize from time to time the acts of the official world. On the whole these criticisms have been temperate, and shown an amount of latent self respect that could hardly have been expected from a people so subject to the depressing weight of a despotic and irresponsible government. Attempts were made after the coup d'etat of September 1898 to restrain the liberty of the press, which had declared itself unreservedly against the reactionary policy of the intruding Empress Dowager. The provincial officials were by no means desirous of depriving themselves of a possibly useful ally, and the attempt failed to the ground. Still it is recognized that in the institutions of Shanghai there is something that naturally lends itself to freedom of discussion, and the checks which have gradually grown up against the exercise of arbitrary power are a difficulty in the path of the present ruling faction. This very position has, however, more than ever brought about a rapprochement between the foreign and native elements in the Foreign Settlements, so much so that the lines separating the two elements are becoming gradually relaxed, and Shanghai is assuming by degrees the character of a homogeneous community. This was well exemplified at the recent meeting of the local parliament, when an offer of certain of the higher class of Chinese residents to contribute a substantial sum of \$40,000 dollars towards the establishment of a native school, where foreign science should form a main part of the curriculum, came up for discussion. It was noteworthy that no discussion whatever took place on the principle involved. The Chinese were taxpayers, and the claims of education, as far as foreign children were concerned, had been already acknowledged and met; the Chinese were entitled to the same consideration, as an act of expediency as well as justice. The question resolved itself into the importance of one of the most practicable methods to adopt. As presented, the scheme inclined to the erection of a large central edifice for advanced education, while a large section were rather in favour of a system of local schools for imparting the foundations of knowledge—to teach the rising generation the methods of learning rather than seek to finish the already advanced student. Both these requirements were accepted as essential to the eventual well-being of the inhabitants, and will, no doubt, be in the end adopted. The tendency of this movement is unquestionably to create in Shanghai a large and increasing body of Chinese residents, who are prepared to make Shanghai their permanent home, and are drifting away from the local ties of the family and clan. They are Chinese in the wide sense, and recognise their rights and claims as such, and to such the humiliation which the present administration is bringing on their country is a cause of shame and regret. That this feeling is becoming general was curiously exemplified the other day. An article had appeared in one of the more influential of the native papers reflecting on the character of men like KANG YU-WEI (who, as our special Telegram to-day intimated, is still in Singapore, after all) and KING LIEN-SHAN, who have shown their sincerity by openly espousing the cause of their Imperial Master. A feeling of wide-spread indignation was the result, and the paper had to withdraw the offensive paragraph, and make a public apology. In all these movements it is satisfactory to find the natives of the Settlements showing an intelligent interest, and it cannot but be grateful to the members of the Foreign Municipality that the honesty of their intentions has not with acknowledgement from so impulsive a people as the Chinese ordinarily are.

Strict quarantine precautions have been taken at Kwang-chow-wan, with the consequence that the receipt of mail there is considerably delayed.

On Wednesday a coolie who was employed in cleaning a steamer in the harbour was accidentally crushed to death. He was on the side of the cargo boat containing the coal when a launch came past and pushed the boat against the steamer. The deceased got jammed between the steamer and was killed.

At the Magistracy yesterday a Chinaman was charged with having a box containing money and clothing to the value of \$2,000 from a bank at 46, Praya. At about six o'clock on Wednesday night the owner found the box had been taken away. The cook said the prisoner had looted it, saying it was his. On the prisoner's house being searched the police found the box was found there. The prisoner said he seized the box for a night. The case was adjourned.

We received by yesterday's mail the first three numbers, dated the 10th, 13th, and 15th, of a new French colonial tri-weekly journal, *Le Petit Tintinique*, which has no relationship to the Little Englander. The editor, Mr. J. Julliat, has already been connected with *Le Petit Tintinique*, and *Le Petit Tintinique*, *Gazette d'Asiatic*, *Journal d'Orient*, *Asie du Sud-Est*, and *Courrier d'Asiatic*. The object of the paper is to support French commercial enterprise in Indo-China and to foster the efforts being made to capture South China for France.

The following extract from a Pauslberg telegram is in harmony with Lord Roberts' statement which we published to-day, to the effect that the Boers' resistance from Lady Smith "continued" of the bad generalship of the Boers. Nearly every man carried with him a bullet and five British were wounded with these missiles. One Boer carried fifty. There is no longer the slightest doubt that Boers are gradually discarding all rules of chivalry. The other day they pointed the contents of a Vicker's Maxim gun into an ambulance, which exploded, however, to empty some three hundred yards away from the nearest troops."

President Steyn denies the charge made against the Boers of treacherously making use of the white flag, and affirms that the British troops, on the contrary, abused the flag. Referring to the matter of explosive flags, being discovered in Commissariat Ordnance-lager and elsewhere, the President says that the Boer Government allowed some to be employed, whereas a large number of Leo Merfords with dum-dum bullets were taken from the British.

LORD ROBERTS' DENIAL.

Lord Roberts adds that a careful inquiry

proves the Boer allegations to be totally unfounded, while he personally saw the enemy misusing the signal of surrender.

H.M.S. *Goliath* commissioning at Chatham for the China Station on Sunday week, the 1st.

REUTER'S SERVICE.

LONDON, 20th March.

SIR A. MILNER'S SECRET MISSION.

Sir A. Milner, accompanied by his military and private Secretaries, has left Capetown in a special train. His destination is kept secret.

FRANCE, GERMANY, AND THE
TRANSVAAL.

France and Germany are manifesting anxiety at the recrudesce of the Transvaal's threats to explode the mines at Johannesburg, and it is thought that they may lead to joint representations to President Kruger.

INTERCEPTING THE BOERS.

Cavalry from Bloemfontein and Springfield has gone to try to intercept Commandant Oliver's Commando, which is retreating from Aliwal North to Kroonstad.

LONDON, 20th March.

INTENDED PROCLAMATION ON
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

Mr. Wyndham (Parliamentary Secretary War Office) stated in the House of Commons that Mr. Chamberlain intended to issue a proclamation dealing with the question of wanton destruction of property by the Boers.

BIRDS BLOWN UP BY BOERS.

The Royal Engineers are manufacturing anxiety at the recrudesce of the Transvaal's threats to explode the mines at Johannesburg, and it is thought that they may lead to joint representations to President Kruger.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

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THE QUEEN MINE, LIMITED.

The first ordinary meeting of shareholders in the above company was held at noon yesterday at the company's offices, 83 and 49, Queen's Road Central, Mr. Hart Buck presiding, and there were present: Messrs. C. Evans, S. Easton, (consulting committee), Mr. H. Mansell, Mr. D. Sutton, D. W. Bradstock, and Mr. Chan Pak.

The CHAIRMAN said—“gentlemen, I will with your permission adopt the usual course and take the report and statements of accounts as read. The accounts speak for themselves, and I do not think require any additional explanation from me. Our year's work, I am sorry to say, has not been marked by great fortune, and up to the present time, though our business has been steadily going on, we have had nothing to show for it, excepting regard to us. The last account from the mine is contained in a telegram from our mining manager received a few days ago, which reads thus: ‘At the 100-foot level, have driven 265 feet. The shaft has been sunk 70 feet; there is no improvement. We are driving south level 200 feet. The average width of hole is 3 feet 6 inches, assay 10.25 oz. The last account in this level was soon as possible. It appears by this that our most promising level at present is the 200 foot south, and in a letter received this morning from Mr. Roberts speaking of this level, he says: ‘The men taken from the mine have been set to work extending this level, which is the only part of the mine in which we can find any formation that presents any hope of prospect. The men employed in a measure work hard, which is what is wanted in the Brooks eight miles north, and it is to be hoped that it will be attended with the same satisfactory result. The ground in which we are driving has not been previously prospected, even at the surface.’ This looks rather more hopeful, and you will notice that Mr. Roberts speaks of the ground which they are now driving not having been previously prospected, and the men employed are informed that the face of the rock as they go on. They are also on guard so far as may at any time hear of any favourable developments. It appears, gentlemen that the only cause we can pursue is to keep steadily on and hope for the best, and I assure you we have every confidence that our managers in Australia will do all in their power to drive at satisfactory results. I shall be pleased to answer any questions to the best of my ability that any shareholders would like to put to me.”

After being no questions the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report. Mr. MANSELL seconded and the motion was carried. This was all the business.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

NEWS VIA AUSTRALIA.

SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

RECEIPT OF THE NEWS IN LONDON AND ABROAD.

London, 28th February. London is quiet, and intense excitement has prevailed at and outside the War Office, the Mansion House, Stock Exchange, and other places of public resort. Practically constant rend the air for the Queen and “Bobs.” The Army Clubs and many private houses were lavishly decorated with bunting. Similar enthusiasm is being displayed in the provinces. In France and Spain the importance of the victory is acknowledged. Germany and Austria are disappointed, and Italy and America sympathetic. King Edward of Italy has wired his congratulations to the Queen.

There is an outburst of patriotism in Canada. THE ROYAL PLATE.

London, Wednesday. All the Boer prisoners taken with General Cronje at Roodepoort will proceed to Cape Town, formed as commandos and under military officers. The French pointed out that 5,000 Boer prisoners will be a source of danger in Cape Town, and urged that they be sent to the island of St. Helena.

CANADIANS PRAISED BY LORD ROBERTS. In his official despatch, dealing with the fighting which immediately preceded General Cronje's surrender, Lord Roberts has described the final dash of the Canadian contingent under Lieutenant-Colonel Gower as “a gallant deed, worthy of our colonial eminence.”

CRONJE'S GUARDS JUPPED TO BE STILL AT MAIDSTONE.

The company of Guards captured in Cronje's baggage at Roodepoort has given rise to considerable speculation as to who has become of the large number known to have been in the possession of the Boers at Magersfontein. It is now supposed that some of Cronje's heavy guns were brought to Magersfontein, and that others were thrown into the Middel River before the position was deserted.

A ROYAL VISIT TO THE WOUNDED.

Her Majesty the Queen visited the Military Royal Victoria Military Hospital yesterday, and left the wounded soldiers the news of Cronje's capture. Her Majesty presented each of the invalids with a bouquet of flowers from the Windsor Castle conservatories, and sympathized with them in the hardships they had undergone. With some of the colonial troops her Majesty was especially cordial.

CRONJE AND THE COUNCIL OF WAR.

London, 1st March. With regard to the situation, it is reported that the Council of War determined to still hold out, and was advised by a council of war, which was held to consider the situation. Some of the members of the council alleged that General Cronje had already lost 8,000 men since the commencement of the war.

THE ALEXANDER BOND CONGRESS.

London, 1st March. From Capetown states that the congress of the Afrikander Bond, the opening of which had been fixed for the 8th instant, has now been postponed.

The holding of the Afrikander Bond congress has received considerable anxiety, owing to persistent reports that had been current that the Bond would foment a general Dutch rising in South Africa unless assurances were given that no annexation of the Boer Republics was contemplated by Great Britain.

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Elles' Terry and Her Son, \$4.00. The Life and Labors of Charles Hintz, 4.00.

Action of the Chinese Play, Lovell's Glories from “Illustrated Annual,” by Whyte. Fine Illustrations, 18.50.

Metropolitan Fashions, by Butterick, Spring, 1900, 3.00.

Chronicle and Directory for China, &c., 4.50.

Ogilvie's Concise English Dictionary, by Annandale, 1900 Edition, 2.25.

Pictorial History of the Transvaal and South Africa, 70.

Nelson's Peoples and Politics of the Far East, 4.50.

From the North Pole to the Equator, by Brohm, 9.00.

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